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RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR DISPLACED HOMEMAKERS

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massachusetts WOMEN

Governor's Commission on the Status of Women

Edward J. King
Governor

Acknowledgements

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Forward

The major social, economic and political changes of the past two decades have had a dramatic impact on the traditional homemaker. Today, women in their middle and later years must make decisions about their lifestyle. If a woman serves in this traditional role, will she be prepared for possible change? Would she be able to cope with the loss of her spouse?

How does a woman handle the uncertainty which comes when her primary source of income is removed? For many women, this economic loss is as devastating as the initial psychological and social traumas which occur with the loss of her spouse. This can be a very painful transition period.

The displaced homemaker, without marketable skills, a good work record and/or educational training, may find it difficult to compete in the workplace. Isolated, she may have to make many decisions about her life that were previously made for her or with the advice of someone else. To seek earnings, to learn skills and to form new associations is difficult, but not impossible.

The displaced homemaker must assess her abilities and develop her confidence. To achieve this goal, she often is in need of counseling, support groups, educational programs and perhaps legal services.

To be of assistance to women across the Commonwealth, the Commission Office has established an Information and Referral System. As part of this effort, the Commission Office has prepared this booklet to meet some of the needs of displaced homemakers.

This directory has been designed to provide a description of programs, names and telephone numbers of individuals who are either specialists or informed sources for displaced homemakers. In utilizing this directory, it should be noted that individuals at the community level may have information more tailored to the needs of the displaced homemaker, whereas individuals at the State and the Federal levels may be better qualified to answer questions of a more general nature.

Joan M. Aliberti
Special Advisor to the Governor
Women's Issues

Are You A displaced Homemaker?

* Are you a woman over 35 years of age?

* Have you worked primarily in the home during your adult life, financially supported by your spouse?

* Do you lack paid work experience and do you feel you lack marketable job skills?

* Do you lack income due to death, disability, desertion, divorce or separation of your spouse on whom you were dependent?

* Have you been receiving public assistance for children and are no longer eligible because your children are grown?

* Do you seek employment to become financially independent and self-sufficient?

You Are Not Alone. . . . There are over 75,000 Displaced Homemakers just in Massachusetts, and over 7 million nationally.

In Washington D.C., there is the national headquarters for the National Network of Displaced Homemakers. Some of their activities include the monitoring of federal legislation, the printing of a bi-monthly newsletter and the listings of current services for Displaced Homemakers.

For further information, write:

National Displaced Homemaker Network
755 8th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.S. 20001

(202) 347-0522

General Services

General Services In Massachusetts

The following persons and organizations listed are involved with providing information and referral and technical assistance to those interested in forming Displaced Homemaker programs.

State

Donna LeClair
State Coordinator
Displaced Homemakers
Department of Manpower Development
Charles F. Hurley Building
Government Center
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 727-1538 or (617) 727-7670

Iris Eagan
Chairperson
Statewide Advisory Council
Displaced Homemakers
15 Viking Terrace
Worcester, MA 01604
(617) 853-2300 ext. 341

Joan M. Aliberti
Director
Governor's Commission on the Status of Women
One Ashburton Place, Room 2110
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-6692

Federal

Vivian Buckles
Regional Administrator
Women's Bureau
Department of Labor
J.F.K. Federal Building
Government Center
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 223-4036

Displaced Homemaker Programs

Displaced Homemaker Programs

This section focuses on programs and services designed specifically for Displaced Homemakers. The staff members at these organizations are trained to be sensitive to the needs of Displaced Homemakers.

Bedford

Widening Opportunities Research Center
Middlesex Community College
Bedford, MA 01730
(617) 275-8910 ext. 296
Contact: Susan Capon

Program Description: Beginning in January, 1982, the "Training to Launch a Career" (T.L.C.) program will counsel, train, and place displaced homemakers in the field of word processing.
Cost: Free of Charge
Eligibility Requirements: None

Charlestown

Math And Electronic Careers
Bunker Hill Community College
Open College Division
Charlestown, MA 02129
(617) 241-8600 ext. 410
Contact: Ferol Breymann

Program Description: Remedial mathematics is taught to prepare Displaced Homemakers for training in the electronics field. Identification of 'life skills' and individual counseling are also given.
Cost: Free of Charge to Displaced Homemakers
Eligibility Requirements: High School diploma or equivalency, completion of high school Algebra I course, un- or underemployed status.

Lawrence

Homemaker Re-Entry Program
237 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01841
Contact: Joan Levenson

Program Description: Group and individual counseling, support groups, workshops and skills training are offered for Displaced Homemakers.
Cost: Free of Charge
Eligibility Requirements: None

Natick

Second Wind-Norwood
West Suburban Y.W.C.A.
231 Bacon Street
Natick, MA 01760
(617) 653-4464 or (617) 235-5613
Contact: Cheryl Cronin, Program Coordinator

Program Description: This five-month clerical training program for Displaced Homemakers, offered bi-annually, orientation, determination of 'life skills' and management training. During the remaining 4½ months, participants are taught business mathematics and English, typing and office procedures.
Cost: Free of Charge
Eligibility Requirements: Separated/divorced/widowed from spouse, C.E.T.A. eligible within Norwood-Newton consortion. Preference given to women 40+ years of age.

Pittsfield

Women's Services Center
33 Pearl Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-2425 or (413) 663-9709
Contact: Tina Calabro, Program Coordinator

Program Description: "Hiring Hall", a group program offered every month, offers Displaced Homemakers the opportunity to explore career interests through classroom workshops and paid or unpaid field internships. Workshop curriculum focuses on job seeking techniques including goal setting, resume writing, interview skills and strategies.
Cost: Sliding Fee Scale/Flexible Charge
Eligibility Requirements: None

Worcester

Displaced Homemaker Center
Quinsigamond Community College
Worcester, MA 01606
(617) 853-2300 ext. 296
Contact: Iris Eagan

Program Description: Personal and vocational counseling, basic mathematics and English courses, office skills training, 'job-readiness' workshops and 'rap sessions' are some of the services offered by this college-campus location multi-service center. Bi-lingual staff.
Cost: Free of Charge
Eligibility Requirements: Separated/divorces/widowed from spouse.

Re-Entry Programs

Re-Entry Programs

As indicated by the name, the following programs and services are for people who wish to re-enter the workforce or school after a lengthy absence. These programs offer services and counseling which make the transition easier.

Continuum, Inc.
785 Centre Street
Newton, MA 02158
(617) 964-3322
Contact: Sue Jacobson, Director of Admissions

Program Description: On-the-job training combined with classroom instruction, workshops to enhance career and personal growth, and career counseling are offered by this non-profit organization.
Cost:
Eligibility Requirements: High School diploma, 25+ years of age.

Project Re-Entry
Career and Voluntary Advisory Service
14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Contact: Sandra Kahn

Program Description: This six-month career internship program, offered bi-annually, offers group and individual counseling and placement services. A five month, part-time unsalaried career internship is an integral part of the program.
Cost: Charges based on ability to pay. Financial Aid Available.
Eligibility Requirements: High School diploma.

Wider Opportunities For Women
413 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 437-1040
Contacts: Susan Loffredo, Noeline Purser

Program Description: A variety of workshops including resume writing, interviewing techniques and life skills identification, in addition to career guidance and counseling and current job listings are offered by this organization. A complete reference library housing materials on various career fields, occupations and employers in Massachusetts is also provided.
Cost: Individual charges for workshops, $30.00 per year membership fee entitling use of all services.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Women's Career Renewal Center
West Suburban Y.W.C.A.
231 Bacon Street
Natick, MA 01760
(617) 653-4464 or (617) 235-5613
Contact: Libby Fennel, Coordinator

Program Description: This center provides career development programs for entry and re-entry level women, and women already in the workforce. Services provided include assistance with identification of life skills, resume writing, development of a master career plan, networking workshops and lunches featuring guest speakers. Skills training programs are offered in the fields of computer technician science, word processing and office management. Individual career counseling is also available.
Cost: Flat fees charged for all services. Eventual introduction of a sliding fee scale.
Eligibility Requirements: None

W.I.N.N.E.R.S. (Women's Inner-City Educational Resource Center, Inc.)
134 Warren Street
Roxbury, MA 02119
(617) 442-9150
Contacts: Marguerite Goodwin, Executive Director
Karen Blake, Program Coordinator

Program Description: Women who seek funding necessary to re-enter college-level educational programs will find this organization valuable for assistance with educational planning, counseling, and information and referrals.
Cost: $10.00 Registration Fee
Eligibility Requirements: High School diploma, 45+ years of age, Displaced Homemaker status.

Women's Educational And Industrial Union
Career Services Division
356 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 536-5651 ext. 40
Contact: Any Staff Member

Program Description: One of Boston's oldest non-profit educational and social services center, the Union provides free access to a resource library which houses current job listings, information on different organizations for women in Massachusetts, career fields/vocations and work-related issues. Related services offered include career counseling ($15.00/session), Job Placement Service ($35.00/six months), special topical workshops ($12.00 each) and Thursday evening seminars ($10.00 each) discussing topics of job hunting strategies, assessment of life skills, resume writing and interviewing techniques.
Cost: Free of charge, except for 'related services' listed above.
Eligibility Requirements: For Job Placement Service only: applicant must be 'job-ready', i.e., have satisfactory communications and job skills.

Women's Enterprises
739 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 266-2243
Contact: Janine Graham

Program Description: "Women in Electronics" and "Women in Drafting" training programs are given here for C.E.T.A. eligible women. In addition, all women may partake of general services offered which include: information about skilled and technical jobs, individual counseling, work discussion groups and current job listings. For a (free) subscription to this organization's Displaced Homemaker newsletter, call or wirte to the above listing.
Cost: General services free of charge
Eligibility Requirements: For training programs only: must be C.E.T.A. eligible.

Women's Job Re-Entry Center
34 Follen Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 864-9097
Contact: Tessa Lachman

Program Description: Day and evening seminars, career and psychological counseling, group seminars and job opportunity resources are services provided by this center.
Cost: Charges based upon sliding fee scale
Eligibility Requirements: None

Related Programs and Services

Related Programs And Services

Community Colleges

The Massachusetts Community College System provides a relatively inexpensive way of obtaining a quality education or training. The small size of most community colleges allows for individualized and flexible program development. In addition their open enrollment policy allows anyone with a high school diploma to become a student. While the proviously listed community colleges specialize in the needs of Displaced Homemakers and Re-Entry Women needs, the following schools offer a variety of career and educational counseling services and re-entry student services which may be helpful to Displaced Homemakers.

To learn more about these services, write or call the contact person listed, the Admissions Department or the Continuing Educational Department.

Berkshire Community College
West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413) 499-4660
Contact: Lanette Cormwell, Director of Community Services

Bristol Community College
777 Elsbree Street
Fall River, MA 02720 (617) 678-2811
Contact: Admissions Department or Continuing Education Department

Cape Cod Community College
West Barnstable, MA 02668 (617) 362-2131
Contact: Carol Smith, Re-Entry Student Center (extension #405)
Dean Sullivan, Director of Student Affairs

Greenfield Community College
One College Drive
Greenfield, MA 01301 (413) 774-3131
Contact: Beth Hapgood, Opportunities Center

Holyoke Community College
303 Homestead Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 538-7000
Contact: Anne Potter

Massachusetts Bay Community College
50 Oakland Street
Wellesley Hills, MA 02181 (617) 237-1100
Contact: Martha Rowland, Re-Entry Program

Massasoit Community College
One Massasoit Boulevard
Brockton, MA 02402 (617) 588-9100
Contact: Marilyn Maxwell, Latch Re-Entry Program

Mount Wachusett Community College
Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
Contact: Barbara Rose, Learning Center

North Shore Community College
3 Essex Street
Beverly, MA 01915 (617) 927-4850
Contact: Anne Coles, Motivation Department

Northern Essex Community College
100 Elliott Street
Haverhill, MA 01830 (617) 374-0721
Contact: Mary Jane Gillespie, Division of Continuing Education

Roxbury Community College
424 Dudley Street
Roxbury, MA 02119 (617 445-3040
Contact: Admissions Department or Division Of Continuing Education

Springfield Technical Community College
Armory Square
Springfield, MA 01105 (413) 781-7822
Contact: Mary Breeding, Division of Continuing Education

University Of Massachusetts Extension Service

Although the following County Extension Service Offices do not provide programs specifically designed for Displaced Homemakers, in many instances, the offices offer workshops and counseling services in the areas of money management and financial planning, career counseling, job development counseling and skills determination, and general consumer issues. Services are free or available for a minimum charge.

Main Office
106 Skinner Hall
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003 (413) 545-2389
Contact: Trish Sacks

Barnstable County

Cape Code Extension Services
Deeds and Probate Building
Barnstable, MA 02630 (617) 362-2511
Contact: Dorothy Appleby

Berkshire County

Berkshire County Extension Services
46 Summer Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 448-8285 Contact: Cathy Roth

Bristol County

Bristol County Agricultural School
Segreanset, MA 02773 (617) 669-6744
Contact: Barbara O'Brien

Essex County

Essex Agricultural And Technical Institute
562 Maple Street
Hawthorne, MA 01937 (617) 774-0050
Contact: Helen Early

Franklin County

Franklin County Extension Services
Court House
Greenfield, MA 01301 (413) 774-2902
Contact: Gretchen May

Hampden County

Hampden County Extension Services
1499 Memorial Avenue
West Springfield, MA 01089 (413) 736-7204
Contact: Diana Muller

Hampshire County

Hampshire County Extension Services
33 King Street
Northampton, MA 01060 (413) 584-2556
Contact: Rachel Swicker

Middlesex County

Middlesex County Extension Services
105 Everett Street
Concord, MA 01742 (617) 369-4845
Contact: Nancy Stutzman

Norfolk County

Norfolk County Agricultural School
460 Main Street
Walpole, MA 02081 (413) 668-0268
Contact: Carol Ryan

Plymouth County

Plymouth County Extension Services
High Street
Hanson, MA 02341 (617) 293-3541
Contact: Ann Holsinger

Suffolk County

Suffolk County Extension Services
University of Massachusetts
Downtown Boston Center
Boston, MA 02125 (617) 482-0395
Contact: Fiora Houghteling

Worcester County

Worcester County Extension Services
36 Harvard Street
Worcester, MA 01608 (617) 753-5477
Contact: Irene Hermanson

Legal Services

Legal Services

Displaced Homemakers may need legal assistance for family law, wills, social security and/or pension matters. The following listings represent a sampling of legal aid agencies and lawyer referral services available. For additional referrals, contact one of the Displaced Homemaker Centers or programs.

Boston Area/Eastern Massachusetts

Greater Boston Legal Services
(Main Office): (617) 367-2880 ext. 197
Boston University Legal Clinic
85 Devonshire Street
Boston, MA 02109

Program Description: The main office and following branch offices of the Greater Boston Legal Services handle a wide variety of legal matters to residents of the Greater Boston area.
Cost: No charge for income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Branch Offices:

Legal Services
2001 Beacon Street
Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 734-6346

Elderly Unit
102 Norway Street
Boston, MA 02115

Legal Services
3529 Washington Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-3003

Chinese Outreach Project
(617) 426-5323

Waltham/Boston College
Legal Assistance Bureau
24 Lexington Street
Waltham, MA 02154
(617) 893-4793

Legal Services
110 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148
(617) 321-3211

Boston University Legal Aid Program
Rooms 7 and 8, Waverly Hall
P.O. Box 158
Belmont, MA 02178
(617) 894-3600 ext. 2228

Fields Corner Legal Services
1486 Dorchester Avenue
Dorchester MA 02122
(617) 436-6292

Legal Services
108 Maverick Street
East Boston, MA 02128
(617) 569-1661

Legal Services
466 Blue Hill Avenue
Roxbury, MA 02121
(617) 442-0211

Legal Services
1 Cliveden Street
Quincy, MA 02169
(617) 472-3177

Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
1511 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-4408

Program Description: Legal services for low income residents of Middlesex and Suffolk counties.
Cost: No charge for income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

New England School Of Legal Services Office
142 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148
(617) 324-8440

Program Description: Legal services to residents of Malden, Melrose, Medford, Everett and Wakefield. Handles cases regarding Social Security, unemployment compensation, consumer, housing and some family law matters.
Cost: No charge for income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Cambridgeport Problem Center
19 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 661-1010

Program Description: Legal services for residents of Boston, Arlington, Medford, Watertown, Everett, Somerville, Cambridge and Brookline. Handles mostly domestic cases. No wait list.
Cost: No charge for legal services for income eligible clients. Charges for legal counseling are available on a sliding fee scale.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Boston Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project
73 Tremont Street
Suite 1001
Boston, MA 02108

Program Description: Accepted cases referred to Boston Bar Association member attorneys who handle matters regarding domestic violence, consumer, landlord/tenant, probate, government benefits, immigration, elderly Title III, pensions and tax abatements.
Cost: No charge for income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: Must be income and geographically eligible.

Cambridge/Somerville Legal Services
24 Thorndike Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 492-5520

Program Description: Handles cases for elderly (60+) residents of Cambridge, Somerville, Winchester, Arlington, Woburn and Belmont. Also handles emergency Chapter 209A (Spouse Abuse) cases.
Cost: No charge for income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Southeastern Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation

Program Description: The three branch offices (listed below) handle legal cases regarding misuse of funds, mental health, housing, employment discrimination and public benefits only.
Cost: No charge for income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Branch Offices:

Legal Services
21 South 6th Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
(617) 996-8576

Legal Services
170 Pleasant Street
Fall River, MA 02721
(617) 676-3015

Legal Services
47 West Elm Street, 4th Floor
Brockton, MA 02401
(617) 586-8393

Legal Services For Cape Cod And Island, Inc.

35 Winter Street
Hyannis, MA
(617) 775-7020

Program Description: Legal Services for residents of Barnstable, the Islands and some of Plymouth County. Handles matters concerning housing, government benefits and some family law cases. No wait list.
Cost: No charge for income elegible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Central Massachusetts/Worcester Area

Central Massachusetts Legal Services
339 Main Street
Worcester, MA
(617) 752-3718

Program Description: Legal services to residents of Worcester County, and the greater Fitchburg-Leominster area. Handles cases involving housing, utilities, government benefits, and elderly. Refers family law cases. Consumer cases referred to Attorney General's Consumer Rights Project.
Cost: No charge to income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None

Western Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts Legal Services
(Main Office):
Legal Services
76 Pleasant Street
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 584-4034

Program Description: The main office and following branch offices of the Western Massachusetts Legal Services handle a variety of legal matters to residents of the western part of the Commonwealth.
Cost: No charge to income eligible clients.
Eligibility Requirements: None
Branch Offices:

Legal Services
278 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 774-3747

Legal Services
247 Cabot Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-2420

Legal Services
150 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 499-1950

Legal Services
145 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 781-7814

Legal Services
Northampton State Hospital
Northampton, MA 01061
(413) 584-1664 Ext. 265
(Handles cases for institutionalized mentally ill patients only.)

Lawyer Referral Services

For Massachusetts:

National Lawyer's Guild
(617) 542-6837

Massachusetts Bar Association
(617) 523-0595 or toll free: 1-800-392-6164

For Boston Area:

Boston Bar Association
(617) 742-0625

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